

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A system for providing software, comprising:

a server programmed to provide software via a network in response to a request to purchase or transfer the same;

at least two electronic devices, each of the at least two electronic devices being identified by device identification information registered in association with user identification information identifying a single user such that each of the at least two electronic devices have the same user associated therewith;

each of the at least two electronic devices including:

a first central processing unit (CPU) programmed:

(i) to cause the user identification information and the device identification information for the respective electronic device, and software identification information for selected software, to be sent to the server to request that the selected software be provided;

(ii) to cause the selected software provided from the server to be installed after the user identification information and the device identification information for the respective electronic device, and the software identification information for the selected software, has been sent to the server;

(iii) to cause the software identification information for the installed software, the user identification information, and the device identification information for the respective electronic device to be sent to the server so as to request that a license required to run the selected software be generated based on predetermined license generating information and be provided to the electronic device;

(iv) to cause the selected software to be run using the license;

(v) to cause information to be supplied to the respective electronic device which identifies each electronic device currently available to receive the selected software by transfer if a request to do so is made; and

(vi) to cause a request that the server transfer the selected software from the respective electronic device to another of the at least two electronic devices which has the same user associated therewith as that of the respective electronic device and which is selected by use of the information which identifies said each electronic device currently available to receive the selected software by transfer; and

the server including:

a second central processing unit (CPU)

programmed:

(i) to cause registration of the software identification information for the selected software in association with the user identification information and the device identification information for the respective electronic device ~~on condition that the user identification information and the device identification information for the respective electronic device have been registered in association with each other;~~

(ii) to cause the selected software to be provided to the respective electronic device;

(iii) to receive the software identification information for the installed software, the user identification information, and the device identification information for the respective electronic device from the respective electronic device, after receipt thereof to determine whether the software identification information, the user identification information, and the device identification information for the respective electronic device have been previously registered in association with each other, and to cause generation of the license when a determination result indicates that the software identification information, the user identification information, and the device identification information for the respective electronic device have been previously registered in association with each other; and

(iv) to cause, upon a request by the respective electronic device to transfer the selected software to the another electronic device, the information to be provided which

identifies said each electronic device currently available to receive the selected software by transfer to the respective electronic device to enable a selection, the software identification information for the selected software and the user identification information and the device identification information registered in association with the software identification information for the respective electronic device to be deleted, and the software identification information for the selected software to be registered in association with the device identification information for the another electronic device and the user identification information, such that the respective electronic device is prohibited from purchasing software and such that the another electronic device is allowed to run the selected software.

2-5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended) A system for providing software, comprising:

a server programmed to provide software via a network in response to a request to purchase or transfer the same; and

electronic devices, each of the electronic devices being identified by device identification information registered in association with user identification information identifying a user of the electronic device in which each of the electronic devices has the same user associated therewith;

each of the electronic devices including:

a first central processing unit (CPU) programmed:

(i) to cause a request for selected software to be provided by sending software identification information for the selected software along with the user identification information and the device identification information for the respective electronic device to the server;

(ii) to cause the selected software to be received from the server and installed after the software identification information for the selected software along with the user identification information and the device identification

information for the respective electronic device has been sent to the server;

(iii) to cause sending of the software identification information for the installed software, the user identification information, and the device identification information for the respective electronic device to the server so as to request a license for running the selected software;

(iv) to cause information to be supplied to the respective electronic device which identifies each electronic device currently available to receive the selected software by transfer if a request to change electronic device is made; and

(v) to cause issuance of an electronic-device changing request so that another electronic device different from the electronic device will be allowed to run the selected software which is selected by use of the information which identifies said each electronic device currently available to receive the selected software by transfer; and

the server including:

a second central processing unit (CPU)
programmed:

(i) to cause the selected software to be sent to the electronic device;

(ii) to receive the software identification information for the installed software, the user identification information, and the device identification information for the respective electronic device from the respective electronic device, after receipt thereof to determine whether the software identification information, the user identification information, and the device identification information for the respective electronic device have been previously registered in association with each other, and to cause issuance of the license for running the selected software when a determination result indicates that the software identification information, the user identification information, and the device identification information for the respective electronic device have been previously registered in association with each other;

(iii) to cause the information to be provided which identifies said each electronic device currently available to receive the selected software by transfer to the respective electronic device to enable a selection; and

(iv) to cause an electronic-device changing operation to be executed so that the selected another electronic device will be allowed to run the selected software, in which the respective electronic device is prohibited from purchasing software.

7-18. (canceled)

19. (currently amended) A method for providing software, comprising:

utilizing a system having a server programmed to provide software via a network in response to a request to purchase or transfer the same, and at least two electronic devices, each of the at least two electronic devices being identified by device identification information registered in association with user identification information identifying a single user such that each of the at least two electronic devices have the same user associated therewith;

each of the at least two electronic devices being operable for:

sending the user identification information and the device identification information for the respective electronic device, and software identification information for selected software, to the server to request that the selected software be provided;

installing the selected software provided from the server after the user identification information and the device identification information for the respective electronic device, and the software identification information for the selected software, has been sent to the server;

sending the software identification information for the installed software, the user identification information, and the device identification information for the respective electronic device to the server so as to request that a license

required to run the selected software be generated based on predetermined license generating information and be provided to the electronic device;

running the selected software using the license;

causing information to be supplied to the respective electronic device which identifies each electronic device currently available to receive the selected software by transfer if a request to do so is made; and

requesting that the server transfer the selected software from the respective electronic device to another of the at least two electronic devices which has the same user associated therewith as that of the respective electronic device and which is selected by use of the information which identifies said each electronic device currently available to receive the selected software by transfer; and

the server being operable for:

registering the software identification information for the selected software in association with the user identification information and the device identification information for the respective electronic device ~~on condition that the user identification information and the device identification information for the respective electronic device have been registered in association with each other;~~

providing the selected software to the respective electronic device;

receiving the software identification information for the installed software, the user identification information, and the device identification information for the respective electronic device from the respective electronic device, after receipt thereof determining whether the software identification information, the user identification information, and the device identification information for the respective electronic device have been previously registered in association with each other, and generating the license when a determination result indicates that the software identification information, the user identification information, and the device identification

information for the respective electronic device have been previously registered in association with each other; and

upon a request by the respective electronic device to transfer the selected software to the another electronic device, providing the information which identifies said each electronic device currently available to receive the selected software by transfer to the respective electronic device to enable a selection, deleting the software identification information for the selected software and the user identification information and the device identification information registered in association with the software identification information for the respective electronic device, and registering the software identification information for the selected software in association with the device identification information for the another electronic device and the user identification information, such that the respective electronic device is prohibited from purchasing software and such that the another electronic device is allowed to run the selected software.